PROC. ENTOMOL. SOC. WASH.
90(3), 1988, p. 393

NOTE

The Newly Discovered Spring Crown Gall of *Asphondylia rudbeckiaeconspicua* (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) on *Rudbeckia laciniata* (Asteraceae) in Pennsylvania

Asphondylia rudbeckiaeconspicua Osten Sacken (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) forms a conspicuous, apical summer gall on the meristems and flower discs of *Rudbeckia laciniata* L. (Asteraceae) (Felt, E. P. 1940. Plant Galls and Gall Makers. Comstock Publishing Co., Ithaca, N.Y. 364 pp.). The gall is large, globular, usually about 5 cm across, and always polythalamous. Until now, only the summer galls of *A. rudbeckiaeconspicua* were known.

Because all of the known *Asphondylia* spp. overwinter as larvae in living plant tissue (R. J. Gagné, personal communication) *A. rudbeckiaeconspicua* must either lay its eggs in the crown of *R. laciniata*, the only part of the plant that survives winter above ground, or use another host. Assuming the former to be the more likely case, I searched the crowns of *R. laciniata* in early June 1985 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and there located six basal bud galls. They were approximately 4 cm high and 2.5 cm wide, and they originated at the base of the 1985 stems. This indicated that the eggs or young larvae overwintered in these buds. The galls were analogous to summer galls in that they were polythalamous, with one larva developing per cell.

Pupae taken from these spring galls, and adults reared on 10 June 1985 were identified as *A. rudbeckiaeconspicua* by Dr. R. J. Gagné of the Systematic Entomology Laboratory, USDA, Washington, D.C. This confirms that *A. rudbeckiaeconspicua* has two generations per year, one in spring crown galls, and the second in summer apical galls.

From this discovery it now seems likely that other *Asphondylia*, known only from apical summer galls on Asteraceae, also have another gall elsewhere on their host plant where they overwinter.

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